

Serial No.: 09/702,380
Attorney Docket No.: 10992667-1

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated January 19, 2005 contained a final rejection of claims 1-16. The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 11. Claims 1-19 are in the case. Please consider the present amendment with the attached Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. This amendment is in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

The Final Office Action rejected claims 1, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshikoshi (U.S. Patent No. 4,769,694) in view of Lenz (U.S. Patent No. 6,512,594). The Office Action rejected claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshikoshi in view of Lenz, as applied to claims 1 and 11 and further in view of Akada (U.S. Patent No. 6,392,680).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and submit that the combined cited references do not disclose, teach, or suggest all of the features of the claimed invention. Specifically, the combined references are missing the Applicants' translating and transposing the input images into reverse images and a photo quality inkjet printhead for printing the ID card, which is supported by page 2 and page 6, lines 27-31 of the original specification. In the inkjet field, the term "photo quality" is used to describe "the output of an ink printing device attempting to replicate the very high quality of a TRUE photographic print," as defined by Google's Web dictionary search (<http://www.google.com>, using the search string: "define:Photo Quality").

In contrast, the combined references disclose using dye diffusion thermal transfer (D2T2) technology, which is not capable of producing high quality photo images like the Applicants' claimed photo quality inkjet printhead. Namely, Lenz et al. explicitly states that "[P]rinting mechanism 24 is configured to use a reverse image printing technique in which a print head 40 transfers a reverse image onto a web 42 using dye from a ribbon 44." Since the D2T2 ribbon printer used in Lenz et al. is a typical ribbon ID printer, which is not a "photo quality printhead" like the Applicants' claimed invention, Lenz et al. is missing at least one element of the claims.

In addition, even though Lenz et al. state on col. 2, lines 53-54 "[O]ther aspects include use with direct card printing and ink jet techniques", as argued by the Examiner,

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Lenz's sole disclosure of the phrase "ink jet techniques" cannot be taken out of context by the Examiner. For example, the above statement was disclosed in the same context and paragraph that contained a discussion of standard ID card printers that use poor photo quality ribbon ink printing techniques, which is very different from the Applicant's claimed photo quality inkjet printhead, as argued above.

In particular, Lenz explicitly refers to typical ink printing techniques, and continues on col. 2, lines 54-57 to state "[R]ibbon 44 moves between reels 46 and its position is sensed by controller 12 using a sensor 48. Web 42 moves between reels 50 onto the control of controller 48 which senses the position of web 50 using sensors 52." As such, since the reference to "ink jet techniques" in Lenz is unclear and appears to be made in passing, it cannot be interpreted too broadly and must be kept within the context that it is disclosed within, which is non-photo quality printers. This is because the dye ribbon printer in Lenz et al. does not produce photo quality ID cards, like the Applicants' claimed invention. In re Wesslau, 353 F.2d 238, 147 USPQ 391 (CCPA 1965). The Examiner is reminded that hindsight cannot be used to take the disclosure of a single phrase out of context and assume the presence of the Applicants' claimed photo quality inkjet printhead. Bausch & Lomb, Inc. v. Barnes-Hind/Hydrocurve, Inc., 796 F.2d 443, 230 USPQ 416 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Accordingly, the combined cited references cannot render the Applicants' invention obvious. This failure of the cited references to disclose, suggest or provide motivation for the Applicant's claimed invention indicates a lack of a prima facie case of obviousness (MPEP 2143).

With regard to the rejection of the dependent claims, because they depend from the above-argued respective independent claims, and they contain additional limitations that are patentably distinguishable over the cited references, these claims are also considered to be patentable (MPEP § 2143.03).

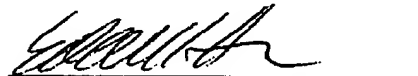
In view of the arguments and amendments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding claim rejections and to pass this application to issue. Additionally, in an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the

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Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (818) 885-1575. Please note that all correspondence should continue to be directed to:

Hewlett Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,
Dated: May 12, 2005



Edmond A. DeFrank
Reg. No. 37,814
Attorney for Applicant